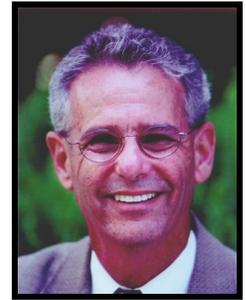




# State Senator Alan Lowenthal

## 27<sup>th</sup> District

### E-Newsletter



Serving the communities of Artesia, Avalon, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Florence–Graham, Hawaiian Gardens, Lakewood, Long Beach, Lynwood, Paramount, Signal Hill, South Gate, and Willowbrook.

Spring, 2006

## SENATOR LOWENTHAL'S NEW BILLS FOR 2006

**SB 1356 -- Suicide prevention.** Requires Department of Mental Health to evaluate, develop, and implement strategies for a statewide suicide prevention plan.

California is one of few states that do not have a statewide suicide prevention plan. **STATUS:** Introduced 2/21/06.

**SB 1601 -- Ports: Lease requirement – best available control technology.**

Requires every maritime port in California to require, as a condition of any new or renegotiated lease, that the lessee use best available control technology to reduce particulate matter (PM) and nitrous oxide (NOx) emissions. **STATUS:** Introduced 2/24/06.

**SB 1754 -- Housing: high-density zones.** Establishes a pilot project allowing for the formation of housing and infrastructure financing districts. The district could finance the purchase or improvement of property, including building infrastructure and housing. The district would be authorized to issue bonds and engage in tax increment financing. **STATUS:** Introduced 2/24/06.

For more information, please see next installment or visit: <http://www.sen.ca.gov/>



## How to Contact Senator Lowenthal

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## LAKWOOD COMMUNITY COFFEE EVENT



**Senator Lowenthal addresses local Lakewood residents**

**LAKWOOD**— Recently, Senator Lowenthal held a community meet and greet at Lakewood’s local “It’s A Grind,” coffee house at 4214 Woodruff Avenue. Constituents and Lakewood city officials gathered for an informative discussion on legislative issues, current matters in Sacramento, and to share ideas, comments and concerns. During the event, Senator Lowenthal discussed his work in Sacramento on the infrastructure bond, and how it would affect the city. Senator Lowenthal said “Community coffees are a good way for me to stay in touch with my district’s needs, and also update the community on my legislative work in Sacramento. I enjoy meeting and getting to know local residents.” Mayor Esquivel, Vice Mayor Larry Van Nostran, and Council Members Steve Croft, Diane DuBois, and Todd Rogers and City Manager Howard Chambers joined in the lively discussion over coffee and snacks.

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## SENATOR LOWENTHAL NAMES WOMAN OF THE YEAR



**Dr. Wendy L. Doty  
2006 Woman of the Year**

**DOWNEY**—Dr. Wendy L. Doty, Downey Unified School District Superintendent was named the 2006 27<sup>th</sup> Senate District’s “Woman of the Year,” by Senator Lowenthal. Dr. Doty is a member of the Downey Assistance League, Delta Kappa Gamma, YMCA Board of Managers, Gangs Out of Downey, and Rotary Club. She is currently looking to take “Character Counts,” a program she started for the local community, to a city wide level. Dr. Doty believes that “if we teach our students to be good citizens and to have good character, success and achievement will follow.” Dr. Doty traveled to Sacramento where she was recognized and presented with a resolution on the Senate floor by Senator Lowenthal. “I am thrilled to receive this award and consider it a great honor,” says Dr. Doty. Senator Lowenthal feels that “Dr. Wendy Doty is a wonderful example of a woman who is dedicated to making a difference. She has done an outstanding job of promoting community involvement, and I am honored to acknowledge her success. Senator Lowenthal will honor local nominees for the WOTY at a district celebration later in April.

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## SENATOR LOWENTHAL HONORS CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF JAZZ



**SACRAMENTO**— Last month, Senator Lowenthal honored the California State University Institute for the Preservation of Jazz with a resolution on the Senate floor. The organization was started in 1994 by the California Legislature with the passing of AB 554, and the help of now retired Assemblyman Willard Murray. Senator Lowenthal was thrilled to be able to support and contribute to the advancement of this important cause. “Jazz is part of our culture here in California, and it is necessary for us to do what we can to teach and preserve it,” he said. The goal of the institute is to provide the environment and resources to return jazz music to its rightful place as a significant and respected part of the culture of California. This year, director of jazz studies at California State University Sacramento, Steve Roach hosted the 4th annual All-State Collegiate Jazz Festival. The Institute currently has members from 16 universities, including CSU Long Beach, which is located in the 27<sup>th</sup> Senate district. A private concert was held for state legislators at 5 p.m. on February 27<sup>th</sup> at the Capitol’s basement. During Senator Lowenthal’s address to the legislators, the All-State band, and members of the audience, he acknowledged the important role that an organization like this plays in the education of the art of jazz, as well as in uniting our community through our cultural history. In appreciation, Senator Lowenthal remarked, “After a long days work with legislation at the capitol, it’s nice to be able to come down to the basement and enjoy the wonderful jazz ensemble. You have all worked really hard together, and it’s great to see what you have done. This has really been a treat for me. Thank you.”



**Senator Lowenthal and Assembly Member Jenny Oropeza Honor the California Institute for the Preservation of Jazz**



**All-State Vocal Jazz Ensemble Performs at Capitol Basement**

## SENATOR LOWENTHAL MODELS FOR CLEAN AIR



**LOS ANGELES**—Each year, the Coalition for Clean Air hosts a fashion show where elected officials model a collection of eco-friendly clothing to promote the revitalization of the environment. Their mission is to restore “clean healthful air to California by advocating responsible public health policy, providing technical and educational expertise, and promoting broad-based community involvement.” The organization has been working to clean California’s air for over 30 years now. Senator Lowenthal is a great supporter of the Coalitions efforts. He says, “It’s always a pleasure to support an organization like the Coalition for Clean Air. I look forward to working with them on new and innovative ways to clean our air. The fashion show is a fun and light hearted way to bring awareness to our state’s environmental needs.” Next year he is expected to participate, and according to Joan of the Coalition, “he was so good this year, that next year he will be the, ‘Frank Sinatra’ of the event.”

### Top 10 facts Californians should know about air pollution and health

1. Breathing air in polluted metropolitan areas such as Los Angeles or Riverside can reduce your life expectancy by 2 to 3 years.
  2. Motor vehicles and other air pollution sources that move, such as ships, trucks, trains, buses and even lawnmowers, account for about 90% of the cancer risk in the greater-Los Angeles region – with stationary sources such as power plants and factories accounting for only about 10%.
  3. Diesel exhaust from trucks, ships, trains and buses has been declared to contain over 40 substances listed as hazardous air pollutants by the U.S. EPA.
  4. When you drive in bumper-to-bumper traffic, pollutants outside can seep into your car, making the air you breathe inside your car up to 10 times more polluted than typical city air.
  5. Every day that a ship sits at dock unloading its cargo, it releases an entire ton of smog-forming and toxic pollutants.
  6. If you live, work or go to school near freeways, high-traffic roads, seaports, and rail yards, you are generally at greater risk for cancer and decreased lung function, studies show, because these places contain more concentrated levels of air pollution.
  7. For your child, toxic air pollution is an even bigger problem, in part because children breathe much more quickly than adults.
  8. Asthma is a leading cause of school absenteeism, according to the California Department of Education.
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9. Even if you don't smoke cigarettes at all, your lungs or heart may be similarly damaged simply from exposure to ozone and particulate matter. The American Heart Association recently declared, "[Air pollution's] impact on cardiovascular disease ... represents a serious public health problem."

10. Health impacts from diesel pollution exposure, such as premature death, heart disease, asthma and bronchitis, cost some \$22 billion statewide in 2004, not including impacts such as lost work and school days.

Source: [www.coalitionforcleanair.org](http://www.coalitionforcleanair.org)

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## SENATOR LOWENTHAL HELPS TO SECURE FUNDING FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE COLORADO LAAGOON



**Opening Dedication of the Colorado Lagoon Wetland and Marine Science Education Center**

**Long Beach**— Senator Lowenthal had been working with the Friends of the Colorado Lagoon (FOCL) for some time on getting the necessary funding for securing its restoration. Through Prop 40, Senator Lowenthal was able to get FOCL \$3.8 million to fund this important project. FOCL President Ray Thorn acknowledged Senator Lowenthal for his ongoing championship of the Lagoon. Senator Lowenthal was honored to be able to have contributed to this project. He said, "Six years ago...we didn't know what would happen to the Colorado Lagoon. Now it's become a model for taking care of resources and for people taking care of each other." Prior to the event, visitors were provided with entertainment, food and invited to take nature walks. Following the dedication, visitors were encouraged to explore the grounds and visit activity tables. The event was well attended by many local FOCL supporters.

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## My Committee Assignments

### Standing Committees

- Transportation and Housing (Chair)
- Banking, Finance & Insurance
- Budget and Fiscal Review
- Education
- Environmental Quality
- Labor and Industrial Relations
- Natural Resources and Water

### Sub Committees

- California Ports and International Trade
- Budget Sub #2
- Los Angeles County MTA
- Higher Education

### Select Committees

- Air Quality
  - Coastal Protection and Watershed Conservation
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## LOWENTHAL Q & A

### Topic: Chairing the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee

**Q. How do you like being Chair of Transportation, and how has it changed your role in Sacramento?**

*A. I love being Chair. There is a great link between transportation and housing, and it's important to combine both in one committee. With all the work we are doing on the transportation bond, it's been an honor to lead the effort in the Senate.*

**Q. As Chair of Transportation, what are your responsibilities?**

*A. First, all the bills that have to do with transportation or housing that are introduced by legislature fall under the jurisdiction of the committee. So I'm pleased to play a part in shaping the policy on transportation and housing. Second, I write the Senate report on transportation and housing and also air quality.*

**Q. What do you view are the top transportation priorities for the 27<sup>th</sup> District?**

*A. To create more effective systems, more efficient ways of moving people and goods. Also, to reduce pollution by promoting zero emissions technology.*

To ask Senator Lowenthal a question for the next newsletter, please email your question to: [Geneve.Villacres@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Geneve.Villacres@sen.ca.gov)

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### Upcoming Events

- **District Office Accepting Applications for Spring Interns:** For an application please email [Mark.Pulido@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Mark.Pulido@sen.ca.gov) No phone calls please.
  - **City of Cerritos Celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** The city will have a weekend full of celebration and festivities. Starting on April 29, 2006 at 11 a.m., the Cerritos parade will travel South on Bloomfield Ave. from 183<sup>rd</sup> Street. The Cerritos Sports Complex will have food, game booths, rides and attractions all weekend long. For more information please visit: <http://www.ci.cerritos.ca.us/>
  - **Long Beach Women's Health Summit:** Celebrate women's health and attend free workshops with free health screenings. The event is open to women of all ages, and free lunch and refreshments will be provided. The event takes place on Saturday, April 22, 2006 at California State University, Long Beach at the Student Union, 1250 Bellflower Blvd, Long Beach, CA 90840. \*Senator Lowenthal will have a booth.
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